## CLAIMS

1 1. A method for selecting a core network for a communication device 2 comprising the steps of: 3 receiving at least one core network identifier; 4 selecting a core network identifier to form a selected core network 5 identifier; 6 setting an indicator to indicate whether a substitute core network is 7 allowed; 8 determining whether the selected core network identifier corresponds to a 9 shared network; 10 forming a registration request message containing the selected core network identifier; 11 12 including the indicator in the registration request message, if the selected core network identifier corresponds to a shared network; and 13 14 transmitting the registration request message. 1 2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the at least one core network 2 identifier is at least one public land mobile network identifier (PLMNid). 1 3. A method according to claim 1 wherein the step of selecting includes the 2 communication device automatically choosing the selected core network identifier 3 according to the following priority levels: (1) registered core network, 4 5 (2) home core network, 6 (3) user-controlled list of core networks (in priority order), 7 (4)operator-controlled list of core networks (in priority order), 8 (5)core networks with sufficient received signal quality in random order, and 10 (6) other core networks in order of received signal quality.

1 4. A method according to claim 3 wherein the step of setting indicates that a

- 2 substitute core network is allowed when the selected core network identifier is
- 3 selected at priority level (5).
- 1 5. A method according to claim 3 wherein the step of setting indicates that a
- 2 substitute core network is allowed when the selected core network identifier is
- 3 selected at priority level (6).
- 1 6. A method according to claim 1 wherein the step of selecting includes the
- 2 communication device presenting the at least one core network identifier to a user
- 3 according to the following priority levels:
- 4 (1) registered core network,
- 5 (2) home core network,
- 6 (3) user-controlled list of core networks (in priority order),
- 7 (4) operator-controlled list of core networks (in priority order),
- 8 (5) core networks with sufficient received signal quality in random
- 9 order, and
- 10 (6) other core networks in order of received signal quality.
- 1 7. A method according to claim 6 wherein the step of selecting further
- 2 includes:
- receiving a selected core network identifier from the user.
- 1 8. A method according to claim 6 wherein the step of setting comprises:
- 2 setting the indicator to indicate that a substitute core network is disallowed.
- 1 9. A method according to claim 1 wherein the step of setting comprises:
- setting the indicator to indicate that a substitute core network is disallowed.

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- 1 10. A method for selecting a core network for a communication device
- 2 comprising the steps of:
- 3 receiving a registration request message;
- 4 extracting a selected core network identifier from the registration request
- 5 message; and
- 6 determining if the registration request message includes an indicator
- 7 indicating whether a substitute core network is allowed.
- 1 11. A method according to claim 10 further comprising the steps of:
- determining a substitute core network, if the indicator indicates that a
- 3 substitute core network is allowed; and
- 4 forwarding the registration request message to the substitute core network.
- 1 12. A method according to claim 10 wherein the substitute core network shares
- 2 radio access resources with a core network indicated by the selected core network
- 3 identifier.
- 1 13. A method according to claim 10 wherein the substitute core network is a
- 2 core network indicated by the selected core network identifier.
- 1 14. A method according to claim 10 wherein the substitute core network is not
- 2 a core network indicated by the selected core network identifier.
- 1 15. A method according to claim 10 further comprising the step of:
- 2 forwarding the registration request message to a core network identified by
- 3 the selected core network identifier, if the indicator indicates that a substitute core
- 4 network is not allowed.
- 1 16. A method according to claim 10 further comprising the step of:
- 2 forwarding the registration request message to a core network identified by
- 3 the selected core network identifier, if the registration request message does not
- 4 include an indicator.

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I 17. A method for selecting a public land mobile network (PLMN)	for user
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- 2 equipment (UE) comprising the steps of:
- 3 receiving at least one PLMN identifier (PLMNid);
- 4 selecting a PLMNid to form a selected PLMNid;
- 5 setting an indicator to indicate whether a substitute PLMN is allowed;
- determining whether the selected PLMNid corresponds to a shared radio
- 7 access network (RAN);
- 8 forming a registration request message with the selected PLMNid;
- 9 including the indicator in the registration request message, if the selected
- 10 PLMNid corresponds to a shared RAN; and
- transmitting the registration request message from the UE.
- 1 18. The method according to claim 17 wherein the step of setting comprises:
- 2 setting the indicator to indicate that a substitute PLMN is disallowed when
- 3 the UE is in manual network selection mode.
- 1 19. The method according to claim 17 wherein the step of setting comprises:
- 2 setting the indicator to indicate that a substitute PLMN is disallowed when
- 3 the UE automatically selects a PLMNid that corresponds to a registered PLMN
- 4 (RPLMN) of the UE, a home PLMN (HPLMN) of the UE, a PLMN on a user-
- 5 controlled list of PLMNs, or a PLMN on an operator-controlled list of PLMNs.
- I 20. A method according to claim 17 further comprising the steps of:
- receiving the registration request message at a radio access network (RAN);
- 3 extracting the selected PLMNid from the registration request message; and
- 4 determining if the registration request message includes the indicator.
- 1 21. The method according to claim 20 further comprising the steps of:
- determining a substitute PLMN, if the indicator indicates that a substitute
- 3 PLMN is allowed; and
- 4 forwarding the registration request message to the substitute PLMN.

- 1 22. The method according to claim 21 wherein the substitute PLMN shares
- 2 radio access resources with a PLMN indicated by the selected PLMNid.
- 1 23. A method for selecting a core network for a communication device
- 2 comprising the steps of:
- 3 receiving at least one core network identifier;
- selecting a core network identifier to form a selected core network identifier;
- setting an indicator to indicate whether a substitute core network is allowed;
- forming a registration request message containing the selected corenetwork identifier;
- including the indicator in the registration request message; and transmitting the registration request message.